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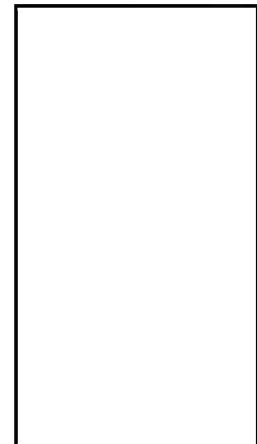
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Cease-Fire Developments

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State Dept. review completed

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Cease-Fire Developments



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SOUTH VIETNAM

Fighting in the Central Province

South Vietnamese officials in Binh Dinh Province plan to intensify their efforts to clear and resettle some of the once-populated farmland captured by the Communists last year. According to the US Embassy, government territorial forces have been ordered to move into a large tract of land in the southern portion of the province, despite [redacted] reports that the Communists will resist the move with main force troops. A similar operation will soon begin in the northern part of the province to expand government control over rice lands there. The Communists on 10 July directed substantial artillery and rocket fire against government troops near the proposed site of the operation, suggesting that North Vietnamese elements will also resist any such move in this area.

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In Kontum Province, fighting continues west and south of the provincial capital, but casualties have been light during the past two days. Poor weather continues to hamper air operations. A North Vietnamese regiment from the Kontum Pass area has recently joined the fighting south of Kontum City, apparently to keep government troops tied down. In Pleiku Province, Communist gunners on 9 and 10 July directed several rocket rounds against an area just north of the provincial capital, the first such action in several months. General Toan, commander of Military Region 2, said on 9 July that he would bomb Duc Co if such attacks continued. [redacted]

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CAMBODIAThe Military Situation

Enemy pressure has slackened along Route 3 south of Phnom Penh, and government forces have begun an operation to regain lost territory in this sector. Northeast of the capital, small insurgent units on 10 July moved into the area around the junction of Routes 6 and 7 and reportedly hold a short stretch of highway just east of the crossroads at Skoun. Overland access to Skoun and to the provincial capital of Kompong Cham some 30 miles to the east has been cut off since mid-June, and aerial resupply operations are scheduled to begin in the next few days.

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